

*243 marriage did take place, the couple were usually obliged
162 to stay with the parents of either the husband or the wife.
178 It is reasonable to believe that the nascent period was
592 prolonged during this period of hard times. Thus, the
182 family size tended to be larger than it normally is. This
[582] is especially true for rice farming families where there
always is some work for members able to work. It is not
surprising, then, that the average size of farm operating
families in Bangchan was 6.3 in 1948 while the average size
of all families was 5.7 according to the 1949 census. A
steady rise in the price of paddy after the war has improved
the economic condition of rice farmers. The increased in-
come, however, had to be spent first on replacement of equip-
ment and housing facilities which had been long overdue.
[792] Finally, the bumper crop of 1948 with an ever-increasing
price put an end to farm misery, and the following dry
season saw a record number of newly ordained priests and
[591] merit making activities. From then on proportionately more
marriages took place and there were fewer economic obstacles
to keep newly wed couples from starting out independently.
The combined effect of termination of prolonged nascent
period and freer establishment of new families was that
the size of the farm operating family was considerably re-
duced.

• 16 It may seem strange that more marriages should bring
about a drop in the number of the young from 2.5 per family
in 1948 to 2.0 in 1952. By the young is meant, however,

*243 Of the 48 families disappearing from the 1953 list
● 16 of farm operators in the village, 21 moved out, 2 were
178 annexed, and 25 were dropped from the list because they
463 had changed their occupations to some other kinds. Among
these last mentioned, four had become investors, three
traders, thirteen laborers, one public servant, and four
had obscure occupations.

Of the 35 new farm operating families, 17 were
immigrants moving into the village during the period be-
tween 1949 and 1953, 14 had evolved from pre-existing fam-
ilies, and four were families already existing in the vil-
lage in 1949 but were then having some occupations other
than farm operating. Among the four families last mentioned,
three were formerly farm laboring families, and one was
formerly an investor family.

*243 The fact that there were as many as twenty-five
178 families leaving farm operating occupation as against only
463 four families entering it within the same period seemed to
indicate that farm operation as an occupation had become
less attractive in Bangchan during recent years.

It may be argued that former farm operators who had
given up farming did so because of the force of special
circumstances beyond their control, and that the change
to other occupations was not due to the relative unattractive-
[427]ness of farm operation. A tenant operator, for example,
might have to leave the farm because his landlord no longer
wanted him to work on the parcel. In fact one such case was